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CBSE 7201

Reflection #1

How do the ideals of social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity align with our course objectives and outcomes, and pertain to us in our role as pedagogues?

Having read through the School of Education’s Conceptual Framework, I can see how it aligns with course objectives in this class. This document is built upon the ideals that best represent the essential principals for educators. As educators we are expected to model these values in our classroom on a daily basis because social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity define our jobs as pedagogues.

One objective of this course is to demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues of research and discuss the implications for the work as a teacher and researcher. This is related to the diversity theme of Brooklyn College’s Conceptual Framework. As educators and researchers it is vital that we are well versed in diversity and ethical issues. Diversity is a crucial element of action research and education. Diversity allows pedagogues to look at a problem from many different perspectives based on different factors. Diversity also allows for pedagogues to become aware of the way in which preconceived opinions can limit the degree to which we can provide an equal education for each student we teach. One could not make a difference is they take on one viewpoint and strategy into account when dealing with a problem. In my own research, other’s success and failure will help guide me by allowing for modifications to make my own solution more successful.

Collaboration is one of the most crucial parts in our field as educators. When teachers, students, administrators and parents work together, we are creating an environment conducive to learning. Most if not all of the courses I have taken in my Brooklyn College career have required students to work collaboratively to complete a task or project. While group work has it’s pros and cons, without it we would be blind to the viewpoints and perspectives of others. In my current school I can say that as a grade we are very cohesive and collaborative. When we work together in this way we are able to find better solutions to any problems that we come across. There may be an additional problem and/or solution that one might not be able to see because they are too close, sometimes you need to take a step back in order to see the bigger picture. Working together promotes better teaching practices in our fields as educations and as researchers. Collaborating research allows for educators to become well versed in a particular problem within education in order to find successful solutions.

As educators our goal is to provide an equally obtainable and rigorous education for each and every student. Through social justice and equality, research should remain un-biased whether economic, racial, religious, gender, or cultural. This is something we should give to every child that walks through our door and into our care.

Finally, the ideal of critical self-reflection is evident in both the course as well as our experiences as teachers. With each assignment we have had in this course so far, especially picking a topic for my action research assignment, I have been encouraged to reflect upon my ideals as a pedagogue. Without self-reflection educators would remain in a rut without adapting to the ever-changing world in the department of education. Critical self-evaluation is needed to better understand our own personal strengths and weaknesses. We are constantly looking at our pre and post lesson plans and teaching practices to decide what was successful, and what was unsuccessful for the children.

All of these ideals are interrelated and each is a pivotal component of the framework, course objectives, and our professions.